

NOMINATION FORM

2010 ENVIRONMENTAL HERO OF THE NORTH BAY AWARD

Assemblymember Jared Huffman will honor an outstanding organization or individual for leadership, innovation, and community service in promoting environmental stewardship.

Nominee Information:

INDIVIDUAL

Name: **Trathen Heckman**

Current Position (if individual): **Executive Director**

Organization: **Daily Acts**

Company Address: **1480 Mountainview Ave., Suite A**

Website: www.dailyacts.org

City, State, Zip: **Petaluma, CA 94952**

WRITTEN STATEMENT:

How has this nominee demonstrated leadership and innovation in environmental stewardship?

What is exceptional about this nominee?

Please describe how the nominee's accomplishments have positively impacted the environment:

NOMINATOR'S STATEMENT:

Trathen Heckman is a shining leader in environmental restoration and activism. Since his founding of Daily Acts in 2002, he has catalyzed behavior change in countless individuals with his gentle and persistent reminder that every choice matters. He has similarly inspired municipal entities to adopt water-saving measures and policies which contribute to greenhouse gas reduction and more dependable water supplies for our communities.

Trathen's organization has engaged 500 volunteers in over 33,000 hours of service, including 95 tours and workshops, over 191 presentations to 11,300 participants, and 21 publications –giving citizens an inside look at sustainable living practices in the Bay Area, ranging from straw bale construction to water catchment to home pickling. In addition to publishing the award-winning magazine, *Ripples*, he has appeared in over 100 articles and interviews and a video documentary.

Trathen has a deep understanding of ecological principles and is a model of innovative, sustainable living. His knowledge includes areas as diverse as permaculture, native plants, pollinators, water conservation, and zero waste, along with a deep appreciation of spiritual practices.

His home exemplifies this knowledge. Two years ago, Trathen built the first permitted single-dwelling graywater system in Sonoma County and installed a 1500-gallon rainwater catchment tank. Earlier, he and his wife had converted their front lawn into a food forest, and transformed the backyard as well, growing over 200 varieties of food and medicinal plants on a modest lot in old Petaluma. Last year, they harvested 1,000 pounds of fruits, vegetables, herbs, and eggs. In addition, he collected a ton of coffee grounds from a local coffee shop, turning the waste into rich compost.

Moving from backyard solutions to civic policy has been a hallmark of Trathen's success, inspiring neighbors to become more self-sufficient with home food production and energy conservation. This work is spreading, especially through the Garden Wheel action, a collaborative effort with Sonoma County Peace & Justice Center and Green Sangha. In Petaluma, for example, the Cavanaugh Center and City Hall have undertaken model ecological landscaping projects inspired by Trathen and collaborating partners. The Cotati Community Park was similarly transformed. The Garden Wheel coalition now has a goal of transforming 350 private yards and public spaces into sustainable, food-yielding treasures this spring.

With a seemingly endless supply of energy, Trathen not only directs Daily Acts but also serves on the board of Transition US and the Tropical Conservation Foundation. For three years, he doubled as Executive Director for Green Sangha, where he did critical work on capacity-building: developing the Board, improving management systems, increasing the annual budget, and initiating a new chapter in Sonoma County.

"Innovation" and "enthusiasm" define Trathen's approach to the social-environmental crisis. He implements creative solutions, and inspires others to join him. His joy in catalyzing and supporting others' creativity makes him a delightful collaborator. Through this influence, Daily Acts has partnered with over 115 businesses, organizations, and civic agencies.

Trathen's consistently positive, optimistic, and supportive approach to community-building and problem-solving makes him a hero of the local environmental movement.